AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented): An expert diagnostic service method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to fixes corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accessing a validation result of validated fixes corresponding to each of the various symptoms, wherein the validation result is generated by performing a validation process to screen out invalid fixes from the collected data; and

assigning at least one effective fix to one of the various symptoms based on an accumulated number of each of the validated fixes corresponding to the one of the various symptoms.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further rendering a result of the assigning step available to at least one of the plurality of diagnostic systems.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of diagnostic systems are selected from the group consisting of an engine analyzer, an aligner, a balancer, and a battery tester.

5. (Previously presented): An expert diagnostic service method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to effective fixes corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of patient diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accumulating a number of each effective fix corresponding to each of the various symptoms; and

assigning at least one effective fix to one of the various symptoms based on a result of the accumulating step.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further generating data including the at least one effective fix assigned to the one of the various symptoms.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access to the data including the at least one effective fix assigned to the one of the various symptoms from one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

transmitting the data including the at least one effective fix assigned to the one of the various symptoms to the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network; and

receiving data related to effective fixes corresponding to various symptoms from the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network.

8. (Currently Amended): An expert diagnostic method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various faults from a plurality of diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accessing a validation result of validated diagnostic results corresponding to each of the various symptoms, wherein the validation result is generated by performing a validation process to screen out invalid diagnostic results from the collected data; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on an accumulated number of each of the validated effective results corresponding to the one of the various symptoms;

wherein the data related to diagnostic results includes at least one of a test for finding a cause of a fault and a fix to cure a cause of a fault.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further rendering a result of the assigning step available to at least one of the plurality of diagnostic systems.

10-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Original): The method of claim 8, wherein the diagnostic systems are configured to diagnose a vehicle or a patient.

13. (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 further generating data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms.

14. (Previously presented): The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access to the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms from one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

transmitting the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms to the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network; and

receiving data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network.

15. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for providing expert diagnostic services comprising:

a data processor for processing data;

a data communication port for connecting to a data transmission network;

a data storage device for storing instructions; and

a data transmission path coupled to the data processor, the data communication port, and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, control the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

accessing a validation result of validated diagnostic results corresponding to each of the various symptoms, wherein the validation result is generated by performing a validation process to screen out invalid diagnostic results from the collected data; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on an accumulated number of each of the validated diagnostic results corresponding to the one of the various symptoms;

wherein the data related to diagnostic results includes at least one of a test for finding a cause of a fault and a fix to cure a cause of a fault.

16. (Original): The system of claim 15, wherein the storage device further stores instructions that, when executed by the data processor, control the data processing system to render a result of the assigning step available to at least one of the plurality of diagnostic systems.

17-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the diagnostic systems are configured to diagnose a vehicle or a patient.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, the storage device further stores instructions, when executed by the data processor, control the data processing system to generate data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the storage device further stores instructions that, when executed by the data processor, control the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving a request to access to the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms from one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

transmitting the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms to the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network; and

receiving data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network.

22. (Currently Amended): A machine-readable medium bearing instructions for providing expert diagnostic services, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various faults from a plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

accessing a validation result of validated diagnostic results corresponding to each of the various symptoms, wherein the validation result is generated by performing a validation process to screen out invalid diagnostic results from the collected data; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on an accumulated number of each of the validated diagnostic results corresponding to the one of the various symptoms;

wherein the data related to diagnostic results includes at least one of a test for finding a cause of a fault and a fix to cure a cause of a fault.

23. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 22, further bearing instructions that, upon execution by a data processing system, cause the data processing system to render a result of the assigning step available to at least one of the plurality of diagnostic systems.

24-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Original): The medium of claim 22, wherein the diagnostic systems are configured to diagnose a vehicle or a patient.

27. (Previously presented) The medium of claim 22 further bearing instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to generate data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms.

28. (Previously presented): The medium of claim 27 further bearing instructions that, upon execution by a data processing system, cause the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving a request to access to the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms from one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network;

transmitting the data including the at least one effective diagnostic result assigned to the one of the various symptoms to the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network; and

receiving data related to effective diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from the one of the plurality of diagnostic systems via the data transmission network.

29. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the data related to fixes results includes at least one of attributes related to an apparatus under diagnosis, a cause of a fault, a test for finding a cause of a fault, and a fix to cure a cause of a fault.

30-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) An expert diagnostic service method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to fixes corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accessing a validation result of validated fixes corresponding to each of the various symptoms, wherein the validation result is generated by performing a validation process to screen out invalid fixes from the collected data;

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generating an index for each of the validated fixes corresponding to each of the various symptoms based on an accumulated number of each of the validated fixes corresponding to each of the various symptoms; and

assigning at least one effective fix to one of the various symptoms based on the index for each of the validated fixes corresponding to the one of the various symptoms.

39. (Previously presented) An expert diagnostic service method comprising the steps of:

collecting data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of patient diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accumulating a number of each diagnostic result corresponding to each of the various symptoms; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on a result of the accumulating step.

40. (Previously presented) A data processing system for providing expert diagnostic services comprising:

a data processor for processing data;

a data communication port for connecting to a data transmission network;

a data storage device for storing instructions; and

a data transmission path coupled to the data processor, the data communication port, and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, control the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

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collecting data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of patient diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accumulating a number of each diagnostic result corresponding to each of the various symptoms; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on a result of the accumulating step.

41. (Previously presented) A machine-readable medium bearing instructions for providing expert diagnostic services, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

collecting data related to diagnostic results corresponding to various symptoms from a plurality of patient diagnostic systems via a data transmission network;

accumulating a number of each diagnostic result corresponding to each of the various symptoms; and

assigning at least one effective diagnostic result to one of the various symptoms based on a result of the accumulating step.